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**THE STUDIO YEAR-BOOK OF DECORATIVE ART.** A review of the latest developments in the Artistic Construction, Decoration and Furnishing of the house. John Lane Company, London, Paris, New York. Price \$3.00.

All who are interested in the making of a home will welcome this "Year-Book" with its many magnificent illustrations of country houses and all that goes to make up their furnishings and decoration—stained-glass windows, mural paintings, tapestries, leatherwork, silverware, etc. It is divided into four parts: Great Britain, Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

The chapter devoted to domestic architecture in England traces its development from the time of the Normans through its various changes to the present day.

The writer, C. H. B. Quennell, insists on the value of tradition in evolving a 20th Century "style." Not that he believes in a servile copying of past art, but in a profound study of all that has been accomplished, in order to understand the needs and the possibilities of a new age. While deplored the evil effect machinery has had upon the crafts, he realizes that we can not now do without it, and that the common sense view is to accept the machine as a new power, which must be used wisely and not abused. His advice is "Let the new methods make new styles."

Although the British section, with its hundred and fifty-odd illustrations, occupies considerably more than half the book, the others do not suffer from comparison.

The one on "German Architecture and Decoration" treats exclusively of work done by members of *Der Deutsche Werkbund*—a society for "the ennoblement of industrial labor by the co-operation of art, industry, and handicraft." They have already established a *Museum for Art in Commerce*, for the education of the masses. The illustrations of model tenement houses, erected by their architects, are of peculiar interest to those who are making a special study of housing conditions in the great cities.

Austria and Hungary offer many pleasing examples of domestic architecture, furnishings, and decorations.

The progress shown during the past ten years in decorative art is almost as amazing as our own advance in esthetic culture.

As a whole, the contents make hopeful reading and the book should be placed in all our public libraries.

**THE POTTERS' CRAFT.** BY CHARLES F. BINNS. Director of the New York State School of Clay-working and Ceramics. Sometime a Superintendent in the Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester, England. D. Van Nostrand Company, Publishers, New York. Price \$2.00.

This book will undoubtedly prove of great value to those workers in clay who have had no opportunity for training in school or studio. The technical instruction is so clearly given, the kind of clay and tools to be used are so simple that no one need fear failure if he experiments along the lines laid down by the author.

Thirty-six years of experience in England and America have enabled him to conquer the many problems presented by clay and fire, while his long period of teaching has shown him the difficulties most frequently encountered by beginners and taught him to explain them in the simplest language. Forty-two illustrations further aid the novice by showing him the shapes of tools, molds, and the position of hands.

For advanced workers a number of valuable recipes are given for glazes and underglaze coloring.

The chapter on "Clay Working for Children" will be of special interest for teachers, as he proves that no tools except "the ten finger bones" are necessary for beginners and that "kindergarten children take to clay work as little ducks to water," and never lose their pleasure in it.

This should also interest our prison authorities and encourage the introduction of clay-modeling in penal institutions.